Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 14672 091613Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------031797 091614Z /43
O 091542Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7055

S E C R E T ROME 14672

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR UNDERSECRETARY HABIB FROM HOLMES

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, US, IT, EG
SUBJECT: MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE FOR EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE

REF: A) STATE 208008 B) STATE 212174 C) ROME 14330

1. COLONEL O'MALLEY AND COMPANY ARRIVED AND MET WITH ME ON SEPTEMBER 7. TO MY SURPRISE, THEY PRESENTED ME WITH SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT INFORMATION FROM THAT CONVEYED IN PARA 7 REFTEL A. IT TURNS OUT THAT GE IS LOOKING TO ALFA-ROMEO AND FIAT FOR ENGINE OVERHAUL, NOT TO AERITALIA AND AERMACCHI WHICH ACCORDING TO TEAM, MANUFACTURE AND SERVICE AIRFRAMES ONLY. AS FOR AIRFRAME OVERHAUL, LOCKHEED REPS PREFER TO ENGAGE SERVICES OF AERMACCHI.

2. I EXPLAINED TO THE TEAM THAT MY INSTRUCTIONS HAD NOT COVERED THE POSSIBILITY OF CONTACTS WITH ALFA-ROMEO AND FIAT, BUT OFFERED TO MAKE FURTHER APPROACH TO PRIME MINISTER TO SEEK AUTHORIZATION FOR THESE ADDITIONAL CONTACTS. I MADE THE REQUEST SEPT 7 TO ANDREOTTI'S DIPLOMATIC ADVISER LA ROCCA, WHO IN THE INTERIM HAD BEEN FILLED-IN BY ANDREOTTI AND IS NOW ACTING AS MY LIAISON WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON THIS MATTER. AS OF SEPT 9,

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I HAVE NOT HEARD BACK FROM LA ROCCA AS TO WHETHER ANDREOTTI HAS CLEARED THE APPROACH TO ALFA-ROMEO AND FIAT.

3. WHILE WAITING, THE LOCKHEED/GE TEAM IS CARRYING OUT REGULAR COMPANY BUSINESS IN NORTHERN ITALY. VADER, LOCKHEED VICE PRESIDENT, IS CONSIDERING RETURNING TO

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CALIFORNIA THIS WEEKEND TO DEVELOP A WORKABLE PLAN FOR TRANSPORTING AIRFRAMES FROM EGYPT TO ITALY FOR OVERHAUL. ORIGINALLY, THEY HAD THOUGHT OF FLYING THE MIG'S INTO VARESE TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF ANDREOTTI'S RESERVATIONS (PARA 4 REFTEL C) -- OF WHICH HE FEELS HE MUST NOW INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF DISMANTLING THE AIRFRAMES FOR TRANSPORT SO AS TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. NEUDORFFER WILL REPRESENT LOCKHEED IN VADER'S ABSENCE AND WILL BE IN THE AREA. GERARDI PLANS TO CONDUCT BUSINESS IN GREECE EARLY NEXT WEEK AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO RETURN ON CALL. BESCHER WILL RETURN TO LYNN, MASS. THIS WEEKEND. O'MALLEY WILL STAY IN ROME TO AWAIT NOTICE RE CONTACTS REQUESTED THROUGH LA ROCCA.

5. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. O'MALLEY REQUESTS FOREGOING BE PASSED TO GEN. HOWARD FISH, DSAA/ISA/DOD.GARDNER

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